

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/033,658

Examiner

David D. Le

Applicant(s)

MATSUO ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 22 November 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 10-40.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 June 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is the fifth Office action on the merits of Application No. 10/033,658, filed on 27 December 2001. Claims 1-8 and 10-40 are pending.

Documents

2. The following documents have been received and filed as part of the patent application:
 - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 12/27/01
 - Substitute Drawings, received on 06/23/03
 - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 07/20/04

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-8 and 10-40 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1 and 40:

Applicant's arguments, see page 13, line 6 through page 14, line 17, filed on 22 November 2004, with respect to claims 1-4, 8, 10, and 36-40 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1-4, 8, 10, and 36-40 have been withdrawn.

Claim 5:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a planet gear carrier for a bicycle hub comprising a first carrier member, a separate second carrier member, a carrier pin, and a debris space; specifically, wherein the debris space is formed between

the first carrier member and the second carrier member surrounding the carrier pin, as recited in the claim.

Claim 7:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a planet gear carrier for a bicycle hub as recited in claim 7; specifically, wherein the first carrier member includes a radially inwardly extending wall for axially retaining a sun gear.

Claim 11:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a planet gear carrier for a bicycle hub as recited in claim 11; specifically, wherein the third carrier member axle opening is structured to allow the third carrier member to rotate relative to the axle; and, the third carrier member is fastened to the second side of the first carrier member.

Claim 15:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a planet gear carrier for a bicycle hub as recited in claim 15; specifically, wherein the first debris space is formed between the first carrier member and the second carrier member surrounding the first carrier pin; and, the second debris space is formed between the first carrier member and the third carrier member surrounding the second carrier pin.

Claim 20:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a planet gear carrier for a bicycle hub as recited in claim 20; specifically, wherein the stopper ring groove is disposed on at least one of the first carrier member and the third carrier member for axially fixing the first pinion pin and the second pinion pin.

Claim 24:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a planet gear carrier for a bicycle hub as recited in claim 24; specifically, wherein the third carrier member includes a plurality of pawl receiving recesses.

Claim 27:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a planet gear carrier for a bicycle hub as recited in claim 27; specifically, wherein the planet carrier includes a separate third carrier member; and the first carrier includes a radially inwardly extending wall for axially retaining a sun gear.

Claim 28:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a planet gear carrier for a bicycle hub as recited in claim 28; specifically, wherein the planet carrier includes a separate third carrier member; and each of the plurality of first planet gear openings is larger than each of the plurality of second planet gear openings.

Claim 31:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a planet gear carrier for a bicycle hub as recited in claim 31; specifically, wherein the planet carrier includes a separate third carrier member; and the third carrier member includes a second guide rib that engages the first carrier member.

Claim 35:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious a planet gear carrier for a bicycle hub as recited in claim 35; specifically, wherein the bushing is disposed in each first pinion pin opening and surrounding a corresponding first pinion pin.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David D. Le whose telephone number is 703-305-3690. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (0700-1530).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A Marmor can be reached on 703-308-0830. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


ddl

 12/20/04
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